

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 17 through page 11, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The availability of the requested securities is one criteria, and, in some embodiments of the invention, the only criteria that the server computer 116, according to the ASAP server program 122, utilizes in making an approval determination. However, in some embodiments of the invention, the ASAP computer program 116 causes the determination to be made based on various other criteria as well. Some criteria may depend upon the particular broker or other requestor. Data regarding criteria may be stored in the securities database 131, the data storage device 120 of the server computer 116, or elsewhere, and may be updated frequently or on a real time basis. Some examples of additional criteria include marginability, corporate action activity, whether the quantity of requested shares is within a specified range, whether the current price of the requested shares are within a specified range, whether the requested securities are on a specified lending list, and various other criteria are possible. In some embodiments of the invention, the ASAP server program 122 causes the server computer to verify that the request does not fit a specified pattern which may suggest fraud or some other problem, such as too frequent requesting by a particular requestor or for a particular stock. Based on the criteria, the server computer 116, according to the ASAP server program 122, may determine whether the request is approved, approved in part, or rejected.